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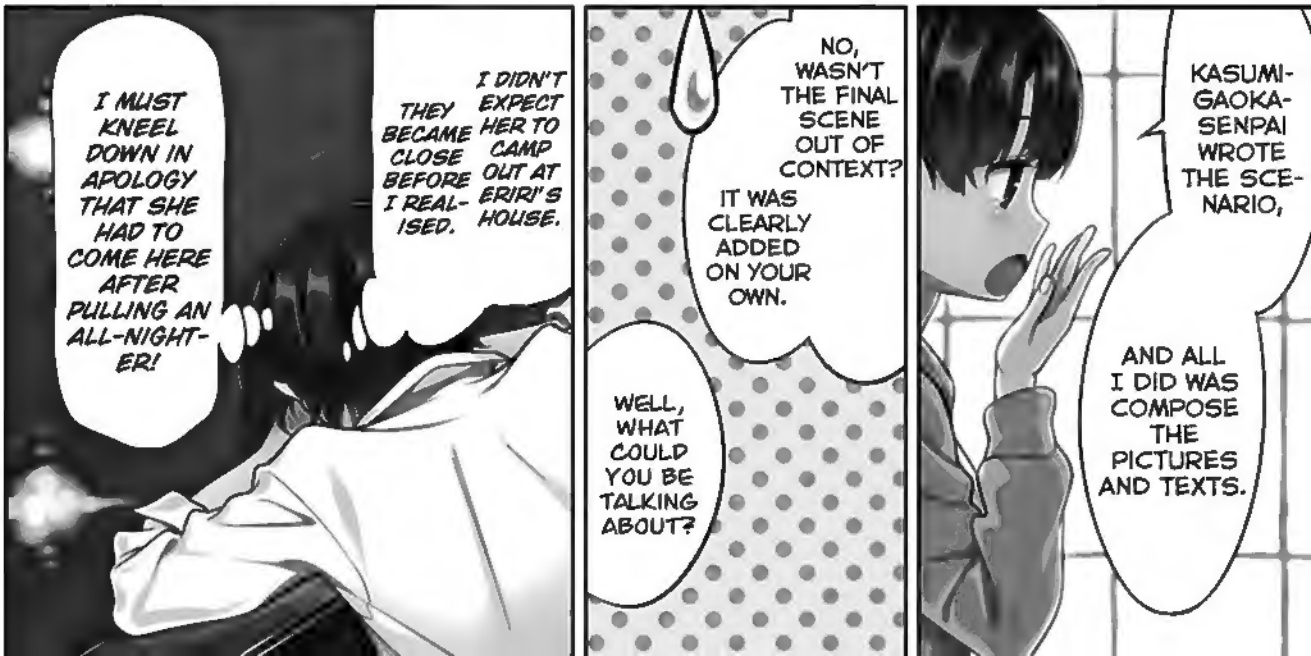
I AM MOST SORRY!
...YOU DON'T NEED TO GO THIS FAR.


I MUST KNEEL DOWN IN APOLOGY THAT SHE HAD TO COME HERE AFTER PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER!
THEY BECAME CLOSE BEFORE I REALISED.
I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO CAMP OUT AT ERIRI'S HOUSE.
NO, WASN'T THE FINAL SCENE OUT OF CONTEXT?
IT WAS CLEARLY ADDED ON YOUR OWN.
WELL, WHAT COULD YOU BE TALKING ABOUT?
KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI WROTE THE SCENARIO,
AND ALL I DID WAS COMPOSE THE PICTURES AND TEXTS.

I SAID, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
WELL, I GUESS THIS LINE IS TOO FORCED.
THANK YOU.
THE JOB SHOULD'VE BEEN COMPLEX AND TIME-CONSUMING...
WHAT'S MORE...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO FOOL YOU.
IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS TOO BUSY FOR CLUB ACTIVITY.
YOU SAID YOU WERE SKIPPING CLUB AND LEFT SCHOOL RIGHT AWAY YESTERDAY.
ANYWAY, YOU COMPLETELY FOOLED ME.
I WANTED TO RETURN HER FAVOUR BY PULLING THE ONLY MOE PART OF KATOU, BUT IT MIGHT SEEM ODD TO HER.
Like "Good boy" or "Good girl".
JUST A LITTLE...
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I SEE. SO YOU GUYS ARE IN DEADLOCK~

WHAT~
I THINK IT'S THE SAME WITH YOU.

WELL, I'D SAY MICHIRU'S PUT HERSELF IN THAT SITUATION.

YOU CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD HER SONGS YET!
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, YOU AREN'T GOING TO GIVE UP ON HYODO, RIGHT?

I HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION, BUT I CAN'T REALLY AVOID THE MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION SHE OFFERS EITHER.
SO?
I KNOW YOU AREN'T GOING TO GIVE UP GAME MAKING.

WHAT~YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME ABOUT IT SOONER~
...ACTUALLY, HERE'S A RECORDING I MADE SECRETLY.

HOW CAN I PUT THIS? NOSTAL-GIC.
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

Hum

...DON'T YAWN AT A CONFUSING MOMENT.
Yaaawn~
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT~

SEE? SEE! DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE CRYING?

WELL, I BELIEVE YOU IF YOU SAY SO.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT WAY BEFORE YOU EVER MENTIONED IT!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT... YEAH, I THINK THIS SONG SUITS THE SCENE IN THE FILE I SENT YOU~
LOOK WHO LETS ME HAVE MY WAY EVERY TIME THAT HAPPENS.
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME ONCE YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND, WILL YOU?
SO, YOU'RE HAVING THE SAME FEELS.
FUFU.
TOO TIRE-SOME.
I'D NEVER BE STUPID ENOUGH TO WASTE MY ENERGY ON SUCH A RECK-LESS THING AS STOPPING YOU WHEN YOU'RE IN FULL GEAR.
YOU... FINALLY SPOKE YOUR MIND.

WHAT?
...HUH?

SHOULD I SAY "WOW~ I'M SO BLESSED~"?
I MIGHT START FEELING MOE, HOWEVER LITTLE...
TOWARD YOU.

HEY, DON'T MAKE AN ENEMY THOUGHT-LESSLY LIKE THAT.

WHAT YOU SAID WAS SO SURREAL, I DIDN'T FEEL COMPLI-MENTED.

NO! THAT'S WHEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BLUSH,
Wh-wh- What are you saying?! Are you stupid?
AND SAY THAT!
EH~ HOW CAN I GIVE SUCH A HEATED REACTION LIKE SAWAMURA-SAN'S?

HM~ IS THAT SO?
AH, BY THE WAY, I THINK...
YOU'LL MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION IF YOU COVERTLY SAY SOMETHING A LITTLE COOL AT THE END.
WHAT, SPECIFICALLY?
YOU KNOW, LIKE THE HANDSOME PROTAGONIST THAT UTAHA-SENPAI HAD.
EH~ NO~ BEING A RIAJUU IS EMBARRASSING.
LOOK WHO'S MAKING AN ENEMY CARELESSLY NOW.
BUT, AKI,
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU OFTEN SAY EMBARRASSING THINGS TO THOSE TWO?

ISN'T IT RUDE TO COMPARE THOSE TWO TO A NOBODY LIKE YOU?
N-NO, W-WELL...
YOU HAVE A POINT.
I DO HAVE A POINT?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE BEEN STAYING HERE SO LONG...
WE'D BETTER LEA-
LET'S ORDER LUNCH! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I RECOMMEND THESE CROQUETTES!
SFX: SHOW

WHY DON'T WE AT LEAST GO TO ANOTHER RESTAURANT?

I'M NOT GOING TO SAY NO BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK TO HER.
YOU HAVE A POINT.
MORE OF THIS...
KEEP TALKING TO HER.
YEAH, I DO.

THAT NIGHT,
MICHIRU, I'LL BECOME...
YOUR MANAGER.

R-
REAL-LY?!
YEAH,
I EVEN TALKED TO YOUR FATHER.
HE TOLD ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU.

SFX: JUMP!
SO YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
DON'T WORRY. I NEVER BREAK A PROMISE.
TOMO ...

THIS IS THE CONCLUSION I'VE REACHED AFTER SPENDING TIME WITH KATOU TODAY.
WHILE LISTENING TO THE SONG OVER AND AGAIN, WE TALKED ABOUT IT,
AND DECIDED TO BET ON A TINY POSSIBILITY THAT WE'D FOUND IN MICHIRU'S MELODY.

NOW THAT I'VE DECIDED TO BE YOUR MANAGER, I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT EASY ON YOU.
I'LL KEEP SENDING YOU ONTO STAGES UNTIL YOU'RE A HIT.
O-
OKAY!

WE'LL DEFINITELY SUCCEED!
WE'LL BE PROS!

SO YOU CAN LIVE A FREE AND WILD LIFE!
I'LL SWEET-TALK MY BAND'S GROUPIES AND WANNABES, LIKE "I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE PRODUCER," AND SET THEM UP IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM.
ESPECIALLY WITH GIRLS!
HM!
YOU ALSO HAVE A PREJUDICE AGAINST ROCK... WELL, NEVER MIND.

ANYWAY, I WANT TO MEET THE OTHER BAND MEMBERS FIRST.
SURE, I'LL INTRODUCE THEM!
THEY'RE ALL CUTE AND HAVE NO BOYFRIENDS. AH, ONE OF THEM HAS A BOYFRIEND, BUT IF YOU FALL FOR HER, I'LL MAKE SURE TO BREAK THEM UP!
NO SET-UP, PLEASE! I'M TALKING ABOUT A STANDARD INTRODUCTION!

SO, YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT BEING A MANAGER...

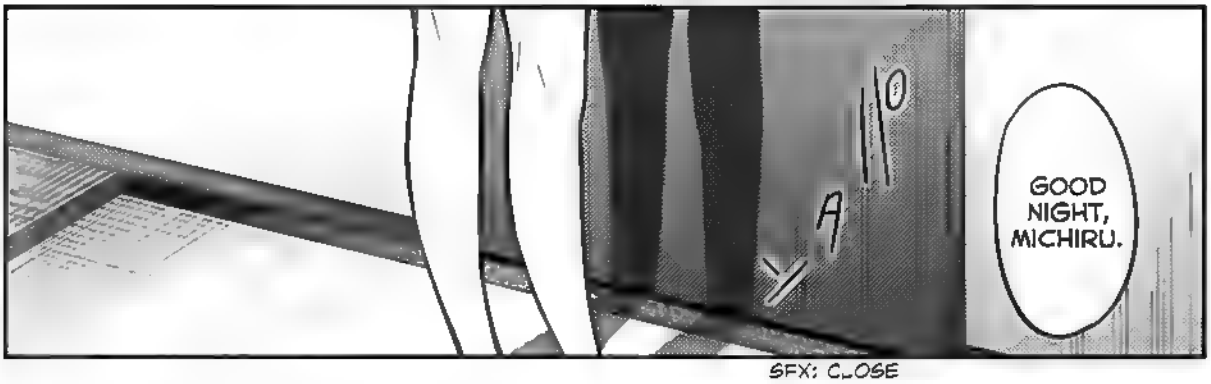
NO NEED TO DECLINE SO FLATLY.
I THINK I'VE GOT TO GET TO KNOW THEM SINCE WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.
IN A NON-SEXUAL WAY, OF COURSE.

SFX: PEFT!
OH...!
HAVE YOU SEEN ME MAKE A HALF-HEARTED JOB OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN STUDYING?
MICHIRU ...
OTAKU
HEART-LESS

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS GIRL IS SERIOUS OR NOT!
NO THANKS! JUST PRACTICE YOUR GUITAR OR SOMETHING.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
I'M OFF FOR A BATH.
AH... DO YOU WANT ME TO WASH YOUR BACK?
WHAT?!
I'M SORRY ...
NO NEED TO SAY THAT.

I'M SORRY THAT YOUR DREAM MIGHT COLLAPSE.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SELF-ISH...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO INCONSID-ERATE.

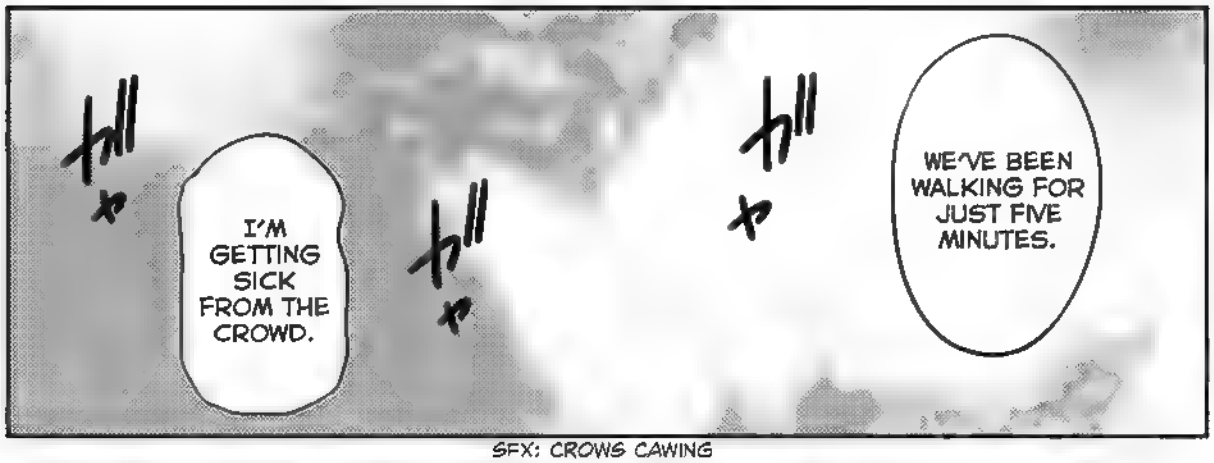
SFX: OPEN



SFX: CLOSE

I'LL MAKE YOU INTO AN OTAKU, BUT I'LL NEVER BECOME A RIAJUU!
Once again,
オオキフ
STILL, BE PREPARED ...
SFX: DETERMINATION
I WON'T BREAK ANY PROMISE; I PROMISE YOU THAT MUCH.
IT'S ME WHO SHOULD BE SAYING SORRY.

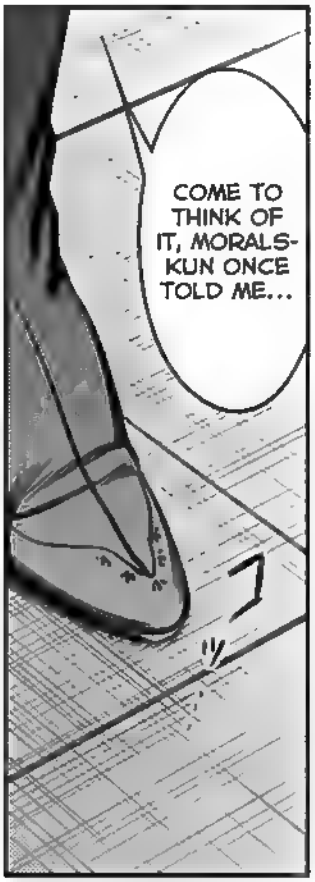
TL NOTE: THIE ABOVE LINE IS A PARODY OF OTARIA LN.



SFX: CROWS CAWING

I GUESS YOU STILL LIVE A SHUT-IN LIFE THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM YOUR IMAGE AT SCHOOL.
I DON'T USUALLY LEAVE HOME.
I ALWAYS ORDER ONLINE.
HEH, I THOUGHT YOU'D VISIT HERE EVERY WEEK LIKE AKI-KUN.
~nyan!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THIS STREET?!
TOO MANY PEOPLE, TOO MUCH NOISE, TOO JAMMED! IT'S SO ANNOYING!

...IF YOU EVER BRING IT UP AGAIN, I'LL HIRE A LAWYER...
ABOUT ERIRIN.COM, THE BIGGEST ONLINE BUYER IN THE WORLD - THE SO-CALLED "KONOAMA"...
OF COURSE, ON AMAZON.

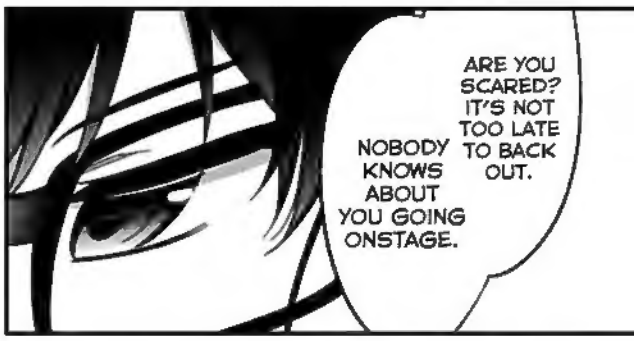


SFX: TAP

TL NOTE: KONOAMA IS A DEROGATORY TERM FOR A YOUNG WOMAN. HERE IT IS ALSO A PARODY OF AMAZON.CO.JP.

SO WHERE'S THIS LIVE HOUSE?
WELL...
IT SAYS "CLUB G-MINE".
THERE ARE SIX BANDS PERFORMING IN TODAY'S SHOW. WE'LL BE UP FIRST.
WHAT~ THAT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE THE WARM-UP ACT.
WE ARE, ACTUALLY.
JUST A STAND-IN FOR ONE OF THE BANDS THAT HAD TO CANCEL.

BUT IT WAS BECAUSE I AGREED TO THOSE TERMS THAT YOU CAN DEBUT SO EARLY.
IN ANY CASE, THIS IS YOUR FIRST LIVE. NO RECOGNITION, NO ACHIEVEMENT, NO FANS.
THAT'S WHY YOUR NAME ISN'T MENTIONED ON TICKETS, FLIERS OR EVEN THE WEBSITE.
SO BASICALLY, NOBODY HERE CAME TO SEE US...
WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET A LIVE PERFOR-MANCE WITHIN A WEEK.
AS EXPECTED OF MY COUSIN, TOMO.
SINCE I BECAME MICHIRU'S MANAGER ONE WEEK AGO, I'VE GIVEN IT MY ALL.
I PULLED ALL THE STRINGS I COULD...
THIS LIVE IS YOUR FIRST STEP.
ONCE I SAY I'LL DO IT, I'LL DO MY BEST.
I'LL TAKE THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO YOUR SUC-CESS.
THEY NEED TO PLAY, RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
BECAUSE...



TS NOTE: "MITCHI" IS WRITTEN ON THE GUITAR PICK

SFX: FLIP UP

SFX: CATCH

SFX: OPEN

NO, IT'S NOT THE REHEARSAL I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
THEN WHAT?
LIKE MICHIRU SAID,
IT'S JUST A REHEARSAL. TAKE IT EASY, TOKI.
HIMEKAWA TOKINO
MEMBER OF MICHIRU'S BAND

BUT IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME THAT SHE'LL FIND IT OUT, NOW THAT WE'VE COME THIS FAR.
...DON'T REMIND ME OF WHAT I JUST MANAGED TO FORGET.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL MITCHI THE TRUTH?

YOU'RE THE ONLY HOPE.
PLEASE, ATKI~
■END■

SAENAI KANOJO
NO SODATEKATA
BY: MARUTO FUMIAKI &
MORIKI TAKESHI
CHAPTER 20

Brought you by:
CAT Scans &
Norway Scan

RAW PROVIDER: SHIRATORI
TRANSLATOR: ANONYMOUS PREFERRED
PROOFREADER: VOLANDUM
CLEANER: YABOKU
REDRAWER: DARKHELLSING
TYPESETTER: KRISTJAN
QUALITY CHECKER: VOLANDUM, KRISTJAN